

Background on Small Business Owners & HIT Coalition Members

Gina Martin is the co-founder and owner of Little Rock Tours and Travel, a 10-year old tour bus company she runs with her husband, Cary, in Little Rock, Arkansas. The company employs 40 full-time workers and offers decent healthcare benefits, a huge factor in helping them to retain drivers with the proper experience and training. Gina cannot see how they will be able to continue recent growth and hiring, and offering the same level of coverage, while absorbing the HIT.

Joe Moreshead is the vice president of Precision Screw Machine Products, a precision metal fabrication shop that he owns and operates with his wife, Andrea, in Biddeford, Maine. Founded in 1960, the company has grown from a one-man shop to a company with 35 highly skilled workers. In 2009, Joe's health insurance premiums doubled, and just this past year, his health benefits costs increased 21 percent. He cannot see how the company can absorb a new HIT without hitting a breaking point.

Mike Mitternight is the owner and president of Factory Service Agency, a commercial air conditioning installation company based in Metairie, Louisiana. He currently pays the full cost of healthcare premiums for his 9 employees. But annual premiums have increased anywhere between 6 and 22% in the last few years. Any additional increase due to the HIT may deter him from hiring new personnel or force him to reduce benefits.